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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

FOR MR. TOLSON

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Walter Joseph Hickel

UPI-59

(HICKEL)

WASHINGTON--INTERIOR SECRETARY HICKEL HAS SOLD HIS ENTIRE HOLDINGS IN THE ALASKA INTERSTATE CORP., THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT REPORTED TODAY. THE DEPARTMENT CONFIRMED REPORTS THE CABINET OFFICER'S BROTHER, VERNON HICKEL, DISPOSED OF THE SECRETARY'S 30,000 SHARES OF THE CORPORATION LAST MONDAY. THE SALE CAME WITHIN THE ORIGINAL SIX-MONTH TIME PERIOD GRANTED HICKEL BY THE SENATE INTERIOR COMMITTEE FOR THE SALE. A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT BY SELLING THE STOCK WHEN HE DID THE SECRETARY HAS ALREADY LOST AN ESTIMATED \$250,000. THE PRICE OF THE STOCK ON THE DAY IT WAS SOLD RANGED FROM 28-3/4 TO 29-1/2 ON THE AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE. THE PRICE OF THE STOCK CLOSED ON THE MARKET YESTERDAY AT \$35 A SHARE.

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Hickel, IRS Go to Court In \$172,000 Tax Fight

SEATTLE, June 5 (AP)—The U.S. Tax Court has been asked to settle a dispute between Secretary of the Interior, Walter J. Hickel and the Internal Revenue Service over \$172,000 in income taxes. Hickel's attorney said today.

F. A. LeSourd, of Seattle said the \$172,000 is the difference between the amount allowed by IRS and that claimed by Hickel and his family-owned Hickel Investment Co. of Anchorage, Alaska, for casualty losses in the 1964 Alaska earthquake.

LeSourd said petitions filed with the tax court allege that the earthquake wiped out any chance to build a high-rise hotel and an office building planned by Hickel's company on a downtown block it owned in Anchorage.

Also involved, the attorney said, are earthquake losses to a number of building lots owned by the investment company and to Hickel's home, all in the expensive Turnagain area of Anchorage.

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W. J. Hickel

The Washington Post Times Herald A-10
The Washington Daily News _____
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51 JUN 12 1969

Frank Mankiewicz and Tom Braden

Nixon Didn't Have FBI Check

Cabinet Nominees

AS A FOOTNOTE to the widespread impulse on Capitol Hill these days to require almost everyone—except Representatives and Senators—to make full financial disclosures, is the surprising fact that the Nixon Administration failed to check its Cabinet appointees with either the FBI or the Internal Revenue Service.

As it turns out, two of Nixon's Cabinet appointees were under investigation by Internal Revenue on the day they took office.

Admittedly, the practice of conducting an investigation, even a routine one, on Cabinet-level appointments has produced some absurd results. Sen. Eugene McCarthy was visited in 1961 by an investigator who wanted his opinion on the loyalty and reliability of a fellow named Stevenson, whom President Kennedy planned to appoint as Ambassador to the United Nations.

McCarthy reflected a moment, and then told the investigator, "Loyalty and reliability? Well, I nominated him for President of the United States."

But the check by Internal Revenue is something else. The procedure was inaugurated by President Kennedy after he had been embarrassed by tax revelations concerning two of his early appointees. Subsequently, investigations into possible tax violations stopped more than one appointment.

There were raised eyebrows both at IRS and FBI when President Nixon failed to follow through on the Kennedy and Johnson precedents.

THE PEACE CORPS, once a simple idea which attracted young, idealistic Americans willing to volunteer for two years' service,

Several years ago, Secretary of State Dean Rusk sent a message to all U.S. posts overseas, saying, "The Peace Corps can best serve American foreign policy by not being a part of American foreign policy."

The import of the message was clear. There was to be no involvement in the work of the volunteers by other U.S. agencies overseas; under no circumstances were Corpsmen to be used as sources of information; they were to be as free as any other Americans abroad to speak their minds.

But, last week, the State Department ordered a study to see if there could not be more interchange of personnel among foreign policy agencies, including not only the Peace Corps and the State Department, but also the Agency for International Development, the U.S. Information Agency and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

What is ignored in this approach, is that it was precisely to create a new and different American image abroad that the Peace Corps was created. If the identity of the Peace Corps volunteer, living at the level of the people he serves, is to be merged with the rest of the U.S. community abroad, living segregated and by local standards—luxurious lives in English-speaking enclaves, the main reason for the Peace Corps is gone.

MORE ominously, a project which put Peace Corps lawyers into the Pacific Trust Territories of Micronesia, to help tribal councils codify their laws and to help set up institutions of self-government, has now been shelved, apparently at the insistence of the Department of Defense.

At the same time, the now Peace Corps Director, Joseph Blatchford, made it perfectly clear in his first appearances that he wants older technicians overseas, with higher pay, allowances for dependents and work projects which can be measured in terms of economic development. There will be, apparently, less of this fuzzy talk about self-help and community change.

Once again, the zeal for change obscures the reason for existence. The history of the U.S. effort in underdeveloped countries is largely a history of failure in just this kind of activity—U.S. economists and technicians trying to fit other cultures into our own economic measurements. It was once the Peace Corps' special mission to remind us that man does not live by Gross National Product alone.

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WALTER J. HICKEL

The Washington Post A-19
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The Washington Daily News

The Evening Star (Washington)

The Sunday Star (Washington)

Daily News (New York)

Sunday News (New York)

New York Post

The New York Times

The Sun (Baltimore)

The Daily World

The New Leader

The Wall Street Journal

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UPI-13

(HICKEL)

WASHINGTON--THE SENATE INTERIOR COMMITTEE CALLED ALASKA GOV. WALTER J. HICKEL BACK FOR MORE QUESTIONING TODAY AMID GROWING POSSIBILITY HE WILL NOT GET AUTOMATIC CONFIRMATION AS PRESIDENT-ELECT RICHARD M. NIXON'S SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

THE COMMITTEE SUMMONED HICKEL FOR A THIRD DAY OF SEARCHING INTERROGATION.

SEN. HENRY JACKSON, D-WASH., WOULD SET NO DEADLINE FOR WHEN THE QUESTIONING WILL CONCLUDE.

AFTER THE COMMITTEE FINISHES ITS PUBLIC QUESTIONING OF HICKEL, IT WILL GO INTO HIS FINANCIAL HOLDINGS IN PRIVATE SESSION. THERE ARE ALSO SEVERAL WITNESSES REPRESENTING STRONG CONSERVATION VIEWPOINTS TO TESTIFY IN OPPOSITION TO THE APPOINTMENT.

NEW ENGLAND SENATORS ARE NOT CONVINCED HICKEL WILL IMPARTIALLY CONSIDER APPROVING A FOREIGN OIL IMPORT QUOTA FOR A PROPOSED REFINERY AT MACHIASPORT, MAINE.

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UPI-105 *Walter*

0 ADD 2 HICKEL, WASHINGTON
JACKSON RECESSED THE HEARINGS SHORTLY AFTER METCALF BLUNTLY TOLD
HICKEL THAT HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF REGULATORY
OFFICIALS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME INTERESTED IN ASSURING "EXORBITANT
PROFITS" TO A PRIVATE COMPANY.

ALASKA INTERSTATE, METCALF SAID, HAD A RETURN OF 64 PER CENT ON
ITS EQUITY CAPITAL. HE SAID THIS WAS THE "HIGHEST RETURN" OF ANY
UTILITY IN THE COUNTRY. HICKEL DID NOT DISPUTE THE STATEMENT BUT
SAID HE DID NOT KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY'S OPERATIONS.
IN DENYING METCALF'S CHARGES THAT HE WAS MORE INTERESTED "IN
PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF A UTILITY... THAN PROTECTING THE
INTERESTS OF THE CONSUMER," HICKEL SAID THAT AS GOVERNOR HE HAD
TAKEN THE LEAD IN ESTABLISHING "A STRONG PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION."
"I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THE RECORD STRAIGHT IF I KNEW HOW TO MAKE
THE RECORD STRAIGHT," HE SAID AS JACKSON RECESSED THE HEARING UNTIL
LATER IN THE DAY.

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ADD 3 HICKEL, WASHINGTON

AT ONE POINT METCALF NOTED THAT STOCK TABLES IN THE MORNING
NEWSPAPER SHOWED THAT ALASKA INTERSTATE STOCK HAD GONE UP MORE THAN A
DOLLAR THE DAY BEFORE.

"THE MUST HAVE LIKED YOUR TESTIMONY," HE TOLD HICKEL.

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UPI-96

(HICKEL)

WASHINGTON--THE SENATE INTERIOR COMMITTEE EXTRACTED A FIRM PLEDGE FROM GOV. WALTER J. HICKEL OF ALASKA TODAY THAT HE WILL NOT OVERTURN AN INTERIOR DEPARTMENT FREEZE ON OPENING UP PUBLIC LANDS IN HIS STATE UNTIL CONGRESS CAN SETTLE CLAIMS BY INDIANS, ESKIMOS AND ALEUT NATIVES.

HICKEL IS PRESIDENT-ELECT NIXON'S SECRETARY OF INTERIOR DESIGNATE. HE WAS PREVIOUSLY ON RECORD AS SAYING HE DID NOT AGREE WITH THE FREEZE AND THAT WHATEVER SECRETARY OF INTERIOR STEWART UDALL HAD DONE BY EXECUTIVE ORDER HE COULD UNDO WHEN HE BECAME SECRETARY.

BUT AFTER THREE DAYS OF INTENSIVE QUESTIONING BY MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTERIOR COMMITTEE WHICH MUST APPROVE HIS APPOINTMENT BEFORE THE SENATE CONFIRMS HIM, HICKEL CHANGED HIS MIND.

IT WAS THE SECOND TIME THE GOVERNOR HAD BACKTRACKED ON PREVIOUS PUBLIC POSITIONS ON INTERIOR DEPARTMENT MATTERS. HE HAD EARLIER SAID SOME FEDERAL WATER QUALITY STANDARDS MIGHT BE TOO RIGID FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. BUT AFTER LISTENING TO LENGTHY COMMITTEE QUESTIONS THAT INDICATED DISAGREEMENT, HICKEL SAID HE WOULD ENFORCE THE STANDARDS THE WAY THEY WERE WRITTEN.

HICKEL IS IN HIS THIRD DAY OF EXAMINATION BY THE COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS TRYING TO DETERMINE HIS FITNESS TO SERVE IN THE CABINET POST.

ANOTHER STICKING POINT WITH THE COMMITTEE WAS THE HICKEL APPOINTMENT OF THOMAS E. KELLY AS DIRECTOR OF ALASKA'S DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES. THE DIVISION HAS CONTROL OVER VAST OIL RESERVE LANDS.

THE COMMITTEE INSISTED ON KNOWING KELLY'S FINANCIAL CONNECTIONS WITH THE OIL INDUSTRY. HICKEL COULD NOT SUPPLY THE INFORMATION, SAYING HE CHOSE KELLY BECAUSE OF HIS PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE.

KELLY, HOWEVER, VOLUNTEERED THE INFORMATION BY WIRE. IT SHOWED HE OWNS 1,400 SHARES OF BRITISH PETROLEUM STOCK, 532 SHARES OF RESERVE OIL AND GAS STOCK, 400 SHARES OF ANACONDA, 111 SHARES OF ACERO AND ONE SHARE OF STANDARD OIL OF NEW JERSEY, TOTALLY WORTH ABOUT \$60,000.

BRITISH PETROLEUM, ALONG WITH SUCH OTHER OIL COMPANIES, AS ATLANTIC RICHFIELD, HAVE BEEN INTERESTED IN ALASKAN OIL EXPLORATION.

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Hickel to Hire U.S. Chamber Ex-Lobbyist

By Spencer Rich
Washington Post Staff Writer

James G. Watt, a former employee and lobbyist for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, will become an assistant to Secretary of Interior Walter J. Hickel, sources said yesterday.

Watt's name figured in an exchange over water pollution between Hickel and Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) at a Jan. 15 Senate Interior Committee hearing on Hickel's nomination as Secretary.

Muskie said he had noticed that Watt was accompanying Hickel to various Senate offices for visits with Senators. He said Watt was chairman of the Chamber's natural resources committee and charged that the Chamber "has been in the forefront of those who have undertaken to challenge the authority of the Secretary of Interior to require secondary treatment of human wastes and sewage in water pollution and to bar degradation of existing standards of water quality."

If the point of view of the Chamber of Commerce of the U.S. were to be adopted, in my judgment it would destroy the water quality standards program as it is now established by law," Muskie said.

The Chamber is on record as favoring a water pollution control program but disagrees with Muskie on specifics.

At the Jan. 15 hearing, Muskie used his comments on Watt to question Hickel about his views on water pollution, and Hickel pledged he would

back the prohibition against degradation.

One source said Watt had not been assigned any special duties for any one program, but would serve the Interior Secretary as needed. It was understood that he has been in the Department for about a year but is not yet on the payroll.

Watt registered as a lobbyist for the Chamber on Oct. 23, 1967, according to Congressional Quarterly records, stating as his legislative interest "measures relating to natural resources including environmental pollution, public lands, mining, forestry and oceanography." Before going to the Chamber, Watt worked for four years for former Sen. Milward Simpson (R-Wyo).

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UPI-43

(HICKEL)

WASHINGTON--WALTER J. HICKEL WAS SWORN INTO THE NIXON CABINET TODAY AND WAS WELCOMED BY THE NEW PRESIDENT WITH THE DECLARATION, "THE LAST SHALL BE FIRST AS FAR AS THIS ADMINISTRATION IS CONCERNED."

HICKEL TOOK HIS OATH AS INTERIOR SECRETARY FROM CHIEF JUSTICE EARL WARREN AT THE WHITE HOUSE BEFORE AN AUDIENCE THAT INCLUDED HIS 11 CABINET COLLEAGUES WHO WERE SWORN IN TWO DAYS AGO. THE FORMER ALASKA GOVERNOR WON BELATED SENATE CONFIRMATION YESTERDAY BY A 73-16 VOTE.

AS THE 49-YEAR-OLD SELF-MADE MILLIONAIRE PREPARED TO TAKE THE OATH, NIXON MADE GOOD HUMORED REFERENCE TO HIS TROUBLES IN OBTAINING CONFIRMATION. THE OTHER CABINET OFFICERS WERE CONFIRMED QUICKLY.

AT ONE POINT NIXON COMMENTED THAT THE DELAY ON HICKEL HAD NOT GIVEN THE ADMINISTRATION ANY CONCERN. "WE'RE NOT INTERESTED IN CONFIRMATION FOR CONFIRMATION'S SAKE."

THIS WAS A JOGULAR PARAPHRASE OF ONE OF HICKEL'S CONTROVERSIAL REMARKS THAT HE WAS NOT "INTERESTED IN CONSERVATION FOR CONSERVATION'S SAKE."

AT ANOTHER POINT NIXON REMARKED WITH A SMILE THAT HIS INTERIOR SECRETARY HAD "ALREADY RENDERED SERVICE FAR BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY."

"HE, NOT I, WAS THE SUBJECT OF A HERBLOCK CARTOON OF THE FIRST FIVE DAYS OF OUR ADMINISTRATION."

HERBLOCK IS THE WAY HERBERT BLOCK, WASHINGTON POST POLITICAL CARTOONIST, SIGNS HIS WORK. HE HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF NIXON OVER THE YEARS. A CARTOON IN THURSDAY'S EDITIONS DEPICTED HICKEL'S TROUBLES.

NIXON ALSO OBSERVED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN PREVIOUS CONTROVERSIAL INTERIOR SECRETARIES, INCLUDING HAROLD IKCKES IN THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT CABINET WHO ONCE REFERRED TO COLUMNISTS AS "PUBLIC ENEMIES NUMBER ONE."

"SECRETARY HICKEL, I'M SURE, WON'T DO THAT," NIXON SAID WITH A SMILE.

IN WINDING UP HIS INFORMAL REMARKS, NIXON SAID, "AND TO QUOTE FROM THE SCRIPTURES, THE LAST SHALL BE FIRST AS FAR AS THIS ADMINISTRATION IS CONCERNED."

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UPI-7

(HICKEL)

WASHINGTON--SEN. GORDON ALLOTT, R-COLO., CHARGED TODAY THAT OPPOSITION TO WALTER J. HICKEL AS SECRETARY OF INTERIOR WAS POLITICALLY INSPIRED AND THE RESULT OF INTENSE LOBBYING.

ALLOTT IS SENIOR REPUBLICAN ON THE SENATE INTERIOR COMMITTEE, WHICH APPROVED THE NOMINATION OF THE ALASKAN GOVERNOR BY A VOTE OF 14-3. HE WILL LEAD THE DEFENSE OF HICKEL WHEN THE NOMINEE COMES UNDER CERTAIN ATTACK DURING SENATE DEBATE ON HIS CONFIRMATION.

THE ALASKAN, A SELF-MADE MILLIONAIRE, DREW THE IRE AND FIRE OF CONSERVATIONISTS BECAUSE OF HIS RECORD AS A DEVELOPER AND BECAUSE OF PRE-INAUGURATION STATEMENTS ABOUT HIS NATURAL RESOURCES PHILOSOPHY.

"WHO IS BEHIND THE LOBBYING EFFORT AGAINST GOV. HICKEL?" ALLOTT WAS ASKED DURING AN INTERVIEW.

"THE SIERRA CLUB," ALLOTT SAID.

THE SIERRA CLUB IS ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST INFLUENTIAL CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS. ITS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DAVID BROWER, TESTIFIED IT WAS THE FIRST TIME IN THE 70,000-MEMBER CLUB'S 77-YEAR HISTORY IT HAD OPPOSED CONFIRMATION OF A CABINET APPOINTEE.

"THE OPPOSITION TO GOV. HICKEL IS ONE OF THE MOST INTENSIVE LOBBYING EFFORTS AGAINST A CABINET OFFICER IN HISTORY, CARRIED ON BY THE SIERRA CLUB.

"AND SOME SENATORS WANT TO TRY TO EMBARRASS THE NEW ADMINISTRATION," ALLOTT SAID.

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UPI-38

(HICKEL)
WASHINGTON--THE SENATE INTERIOR COMMITTEE TODAY APPROVED ALASKA GOVERNOR WALTER J. HICKEL TO BE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR. SEN. HENRY M. JACKSON, D. WASH., CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, SAID THE VOTE TO RECOMMEND CONFIRMATION WAS 14 TO 3. SEN. GAYLOR NELSON OF WISCONSIN, FRANK E. MOSS OF UTAH AND GEORGE McGOVERN OF SOUTH DAKOTA, ALL DEMOCRATS, IN OPPOSITION. JACKSON SAID THERE WERE STILL A FEW DETAILS CONCERNING DIVESTITUTE OF FINANCIAL ASSETS TO BE CLEARED UP FOR THE RECORD BUT HE SAID THESE DETAILS PRESENTED NO BAR TO THE COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL.
"HE HAS MET THE MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR SECRETARY. I THINK THE PRESIDENT IS ENTITLED TO HIS CABINET CHOICE," JACKSON TOLD REPORTERS.
HICKEL STOOD BY IN A COMMITTEE ANTEROOM DURING THE HOUR AND 45 MINUTES THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION HIS AT ONE POINT SEN. THEODORE STEVENS, R-ALA., CONSULTED GOVERNOR ON A MINOR POINT CONCERNING HIS FINANCIAL INTERESTS.
HICKEL'S COMMITTEE APPROVAL TOOK FOUR DAYS, THE LONGEST OF ANY OF NIXON'S CABINET CHOICES. JACKSON SAID THE NOMINATION WILL NOT BE BROUGHT UP BEFORE THE SENATE UNTIL THE RECORD IS COMPLETE, THUS POSTPONING CONSIDERATION UNTIL TUESDAY AT THE EARLIEST.

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UPI-7

(HICKEL)

WASHINGTON--WITH 11 OF THE 12 NIXON CABINET APPOINTEES CONFIRMED, THE SENATE INTENDED TO DEBATE TODAY ON THE REMAINING ONE, INTERIOR SECRETARY-DESIGNATE WALTER J. HICKEL.

CONFIRMATION WAS SEEN AS A CERTAINTY, BUT NOT BEFORE CONSIDERABLE TALK ON THE FLOOR.

ONE OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S FIRST OFFICIAL ACTS WAS TO SIGN THE DOCUMENTS OF APPOINTMENT FOR HIS CABINET, AND IN A SPECIAL POST-INAUGURATION SESSION THE SENATE YESTERDAY CONFIRMED 11 OF THEM UNANIMOUSLY IN LESS THAN 15 MINUTES.

BUT WHEN THE CLERK CALLED THE NAME OF HICKEL, GOVERNOR OF ALASKA AND A WEALTHY BUSINESSMAN, ASST. DEMOCRATIC LEADER EDWARD M. KENNEDY ASKED THAT IT BE REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE CALENDAR AND SAID THE LEADERSHIP INTENDED TO CALL IT UP TODAY.

IN 1961, ALL OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S CABINET APPOINTEES WERE CONFIRMED THE DAY AFTER INAUGURATION.

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Senate Sets Hickel Vote

Today

By Spencer
 The Senate today the nomination of Sen. J. Hickel for five hours yesterday and agreed to a final vote at 1 p.m. today confirming Hickel as Secretary of Interior.

Little doubt remains that the Senate will approve Hickel by a wide margin despite charges made on the floor yesterday that he is unqualified to preserve the nation's resources.

In a round of speeches and exchanges, Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) and other critics charged that Hickel is too closely linked to the oil industry, insufficiently conservation-minded and too oriented toward promoting business development to be entrusted with stewardship of the Interior Department.

So far, however, only eight Senators have announced their intention to vote against the Alaska Governor.

Three Senators regarded as possible recruits to the anti-Hickel group announced that they would vote for Hickel, albeit with some reservations. They were Philip A. Hart (D-Mich.), Edward W. Brooke (R-Mass.) and Frank Church (D-Idaho).

The eight announced votes against Hickel are Proxmire, Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.), George S. McGovern (D-S.D.), Joseph Tydings (D-Md.), Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), Thomas McIntyre (D-N.H.), Vance Hartke (D-Ind.) and Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine). McIntyre, Hartke and Muskie made their positions known yesterday.

The most slashing attack on Hickel came from Proxmire, who said his chief complaint was Hickel's "extraordinarily close ties to the oil industry, which so often has been the adversary of the American public interest."

Proxmire cited:
 • Hickel's former position as chairman of the Board of the Anchorage Natural Gas Co., a company which, Sen. Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.) had revealed earlier, made 64 per cent profit on invested capital in the first half of 1966.

• Hickel's appointment of former oilman Tom Kelly as Alaska Commissioner of Natural Resources, with jurisdiction over oil leases, without finding out that Kelly held stock in several oil companies and had bought 1400 shares of British Petroleum after taking the post.

• Hickel's action as Governor in opposing the attempt of New England to obtain permission for a refinery in a proposed free trade zone at Machiasport, Maine, that would import low-cost Libyan oil, thereby lowering fuel costs in New England.

Muskie and Sen. John Pastore (D-R.I.) used the debate as a showcase for their argument in favor of the Machiasport project, for which Hickel, as Secretary of Interior, would have to allocate oil import quotas.

Said Pastore of Hickel: "How can you talk of fairness when the man who is a party to a suit brought by Alaska against the Machiasport proposal will become the judge?" He went on: "He is industry-minded, he is not consumer-minded, and for him to change he'd have to make a change of 180 degrees."

Muskie said he was not satisfied with Hickel's assurances that he would turn his attention to solving New England's fuel problem.

Hickel was defended by Sen. Gordon Allott (R-Colo.) as open-minded, consumer-oriented and fair, and by Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), Senate Interior Chairman. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.) supported the nomination, stressing that

in the absence of some compelling reason, the President is entitled to have his Cabinet selections confirmed.

After voting on Hickel today, the Senate will take up the nomination of David Packard as Deputy Secretary of Defense. Sen. Albert Gore (D-Tenn.) has urged rejection.

contending Packard has a conflict of interest because of \$200 million of stock in an electronics firm the does business with the Pentagon.

Before the Hickel vote started yesterday, the confirmed without objection. Phil Campbell of Geo Under Secretary of Agriculture and Clarence D. P. Virginia as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

Sen. Everett M. Dirksen (Ill.) said before the hearing that President intends to name Russell, a well-known conservative, as Under Secretary of Interior — a pledge that help Hickel today.

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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Gov. Hickel's Background s Outlined

By Drew Pearson
and Jack Anderson

Only once in American history has a member of the Cabinet been convicted. Secretary of the Interior Albert K. Flaherty was found guilty of taking a \$100,000 bribe from Sinclair Oil in connection with giveaway of the Teapot Dome naval oil reserve.

One other, Richard A. Ballin, Secretary of the Interior under Taft, was accused of accepting a \$250 law fee before he entered the Cabinet—and later, as a member of the Cabinet, disposing of 330 acres of Alaskan coal lands to his former client.

The Billinger scandal led to his resignation and the subsequent defeat of President Taft by Woodrow Wilson after Teddy Roosevelt bitterly attacked Taft over Billinger and his failure to carry out conservation.

Since then, and since the Teapot Dome oil scandal convulsed the Nation every President and every Congress has been sensitive over the question of oil reserves and of natural resources and the Secretary of the Interior who is supposed to protect them.

During the Truman Administration, Mr. Truman was forced to recall from the Senate the name of his old friend Ed Pauley to be Under Secretary of the Navy because Pauley was an oilman.

There was a period under President Eisenhower when Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay won the nickname of "Generous Doug" because of his generosity in handing out mining claims and drilling permits on the public domain. However, reaction was so strong that McKay resigned and Fred Seaton, who replaced him, did a conscientious job of carrying out the GOP policy of conservation.

All of this is why the appointment of Gov. Walter J. Hickel of Alaska to be Richard Nixon's Secretary of the Interior is certain to result in fireworks at Hickel's Senate confirmation hearings.

Friend of Oil

Hickel stuck his chin out at his initial press conference by antagonizing every conservationist in the country, Republican or Democrat, including the daughter of Teddy Roosevelt, Alice Longworth, by stating that he did not believe in putting natural resources under lock and key just for conservation's sake. He also made it quite clear that he intended to reverse the executive order of Secretary Udall that froze all government lands in Alaska until Congress could decide what effect the lands should have to Eskimos, Indians and Alaskans.

If you examine Hickel's record minutely you discover a lot of other points the Senate Interior Committee should check into carefully before confirming him. Here are some of them:

Point No. 1—Hickel is an oil and gas man. Until he became Governor, he was chairman of the Anchorage Natural Gas Company, which freezes natural gas and sells it to Japan. This put him in the same position as Ed Pauley who failed to get confirmation as Under Secretary of the Navy, though Hickel is in a far more sensitive spot than Pauley because as Secretary of the Interior he will have several million acres of government oil land under him.

Point No. 2—Hickel was elected Governor with the active support of oil companies. Alaskan law does not require filing of campaign contributions, so the exact amount of oil funds is not available. However, Hickel waged a well-financed campaign with a lot of expensive Madison Avenue gimmicks, and the oil donations are reported to have been around \$400,000.

Point No. 3—Immediately after becoming Governor, Hickel fired the head of his minerals resources division and appointed in his place Tom Kelly, former executive vice president of Halbouty Oil Co. and son-in-law of Mike Halbouty. Hickel is reported to be in various land deals with Halbouty.

Point No. 4—Hickel, who is to be Secretary of the Interior, has been Robert O. Anderson, heavy contributor to the Nixon campaign and head of Atlantic Richfield Oil. This company scored one of the big oil strikes of recent years on Alaska's north slope with two wells that are bringing in some 2000 barrels per day. This compares with 100 to 50 barrels for their southern counterparts.

The man who is Secretary of the Interior will have considerable authority where Atlantic Richfield pick up further leases.

Point No. 5—Hickel, after the death of Sen. Bob Bartlett, appointed to the Senate Tom Stevens, former counsel for Atlantic Richfield Oil and other oil companies.

Point No. 6—As Governor, Hickel opposed an increase in the severance tax against oil companies operating in Alaska. The University of Alaska has found, after a thorough study of oil, that the oil companies could afford to pay a 10 per cent tax on all oil taken from the ground in Alaska. Hickel, however, rejected this, asked for a tax study of his own. Later the Alaskan legislature passed a modest tax of 3 per cent, which the Governor still opposed, even though some of the oil executives had expected to settle for 7.

Thus has the genial Wally Hickel fought for the oil companies. After Jan. 20 he'll be expected to settle for 7.

Thus has the genial Wally Hickel fought for the oil companies. After Jan. 20 he'll be expected to settle for 7.

Thus has the genial Wally Hickel fought for the oil companies. After Jan. 20 he'll be expected to settle for 7.

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ew Pearson and Jack Anderson

Eskimo Seeks to Block Confirmation of Wally Hickel as Secretary of Interior

SKIMO named Charles Edwardson, wearing a "no jacket," has been on Senators about the Secretary of the Interior, Walter J. Hickel, now Governor of Alaska. Edwardson wears no jacket because he finds it hot in Washington offices, and of course the 30-degree thermometer here is a lot warmer than the 50-below thermometer at Point Barrow where he lives.



Pearson Anderson

at five to ten billion barrels, but other estimates of the surrounding area go up to 40 billion barrels.

"The Eskimo has been hunting and fishing on this land for hundreds of years," continued Edwardson. "Then the white man comes along and wants to take it because of oil. All the white man thinks about is oil. It was the Eskimo who showed the white man oil seeps in 1923, and after that the Navy set aside an oil reserve."

"The north slope of Alaska is 58 million acres—about the size of Pennsylvania," explained Edwardson. "It contains some of the richest oil lands in the world. Gov. Hickel has estimated the present oil strike

and also has excellent coal deposits—about 80 billion tons of coal in about 200,000 acres along the coast."

POLAR BEARS, Charlie said, are getting scarcer in Alaska.

"You hunt them by airplane," he explained. "So you can't lose. You fly around until you see a bear. If you're a bad shot, your guide will shoot it for you. It costs you about \$2500 per bear."

"Let Hickel have his oil," said Edwardson, "but we want to collect a royalty on it when it's taken from our hunting lands. They'll take oil the way they took gold and there'll be nothing left. The white man makes a killing, and then he leaves."

"When one Eskimo lady, Lucy Ahvakana, went up to her summer fishing camp on the north slope last summer, she found that Sinclair Oil had taken over her shack and was using her home for storage. Sinclair had built an air strip nearby, which of course will scare away all the game."

"How long must we sit by while creeping wolves sneak away our territory?" Charlie asked.

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UPI-85 *WALTER, J.*

ADD HICKEL, WASHINGTON (UPI-73)

SEN. GAYLORD NELSON, D-WIS., ONE OF THE ANNOUNCED OPPONENTS OF CONFIRMATION, SAID HICKEL SIMPLY DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE "COLOSSAL" RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POSITION.

"IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT ANYONE CAN GRASP THIS ISSUE IN ITS ENTIRETY AND ADVANCE IT EFFECTIVELY WHO HAS NOT BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED AND COMMITTED IN THE PAST."

A MEMBER OF THE INTERIOR COMMITTEE WHERE HE VOTED AGAINST HICKEL, NELSON DESCRIBED THE NOMINEE AS AN ABLE BUSINESSMAN AND POLITICIAN.

"BUT EVEN IF HIS VIEWS ON CONSERVATION REPRESENT THOSE OF A MAJORITY OF THE CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC, THEY ARE NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR A SECRETARY OF INTERIOR," NELSON SAID. "THE NATION'S MOST URGENT CURRENT BUSINESS IS TO REVERSE THE ACCELERATING DETERIORATION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT."

HICKEL IS NOT LIKELY TO PROVIDE THAT KIND OF LEADERSHIP, THE SENATOR SAID.

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mitchell Has What It Takes

Some critics of incoming Attorney General John Mitchell have suggested he may be of questionable effectiveness because he lacks experience in such areas as civil rights, antitrust cases, dealing with organized crime and other issues which might come before the Justice Department.

What they overlook is that Mitchell gives every indication that he is a man who will do what his predecessor did all too reluctantly in certain instances—enforce the law and prosecute offenders vigorously.

Crime has reached the point in this country that a hard-line law enforcement man such as Mitchell is urgently needed in this post, which has been occupied in recent years by

men more concerned with espousing their sociological views on crime than in enforcing the law.

In the case of Gov. Walter Hickel of Alaska, a chorus of critics are trying to paint him as a despoiler of land and resources because he indicated he disagreed with a policy of withdrawing a large area of land for conservation and "lock it up for no reason."

To date no one has shown that Alaska Gov. Hickel has anything more than a balanced view on conservation. He has indicated he will continue to pursue a policy of intelligently conserving the nation's land and resources. But he also will recognize the need for developing resources such as oil deposits in Alaska when this is the wisest course.

Walter J. Hickel

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2E St. Louis Globe-Democrat
St. Louis, Mo.

Date: 1/18-19/69

Edition:

Author:

Editor: G. Duncan Bauman,

Title: Publisher

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: SLMO

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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Hickel Applied for Many Oil Leases

Walter J. Hickel

Sen. Pearson

Sen. Anderson

Sen. Interior Comm.

Gov. Walter J.

of Alaska to be Secre-

of the Interior has done

a slight job of investi-

gation that has not dug into

the oil and gas leases

Hickel has applied for in

Alaska.

Senators have asked

whether he was in the

oil and gas business and he

denies this. He has re-

peatedly said that he had no

oil and gas leases.

However, over the long dis-

tance telephone to Anchorage,

Alaska, he has been able to

ascertain that he applied for

some:

The Bureau of Land Man-

agement, which is a part of

the Interior Department which

Hickel told boss. If okayed

by the complacent members

of the Senate Interior Com-

mittee, has on file a long list

of leases in which Hickel ap-

plied between February and

November 1963. They total 42,

240 acres in the name of the

Hickel Investment Co., together

with 3,320 acres applied

for in the name of Walter J.

Hickel of 25 Gambell st., An-

chorage.

This makes almost 100,000

acres of oil and gas land for

which the would be Secretary

of Interior has applied in the

year 1963.

The leases in the name of

the Hickel Investment Co. run

from No. 060211 through

060214, together with another

series of 060370-78. Still an-

other series of leases applied

for under the name of Hickel

Investment Co. extends from

060391-93.

Leases applied for under

the name of Walter J. Hickel

include 060487 through 060509.

Time has not permitted in-

vestigation of other years. But

the above should be sufficient

to prove to the easy-going

Senators that Hickel has a

not been telling the truth.

In fact, in various instances

of cross-examination, Sen.

George McGovern (D-S.D.)

and Sen. Frank E. Moss (D-

Utah) have caught Hickel in

conflicting stories.

Nevertheless, the Senators

without further investigation

plan to rush through his con-

firmation following a closed-

door session this morning.

puzzled contractor will con-

cess.

"Then you aren't starving,"

Rickover will snort. "If you

have any trouble feeding your

family, let me know and I'll

send you a loaf of bread every

day. Drop in a year from now

and let me know how you're

getting along."

Grid Secretary

Ex-Secretary of State Dean

Rusk met a professional foot-

ball player the other day from

the Cleveland Browns.

Football players are a higher

caliber, today, remarked

Rusk diplomatically.

"Yes," agreed the player,

"It's the kind of game where

you have to think while you

beat your head."

"Just like being Secretary

of State," said Rusk.

Telephone Blitz

President Johnson used all

his famous powers of per-

suasion to get the President

elect to agree to continue the

10 per cent surtax.

If the surtax were allowed

to expire, Mr. Johnson would

be able to leave a balanced

budget to his successor, but

not a budget surplus for the

fiscal year ending June 30,

1970. He was anxious to do

this for the budget-minded

Republicans.

Nixon, however, didn't want

to commit himself to continu-

ing the surtax until he had a

chance to study the issue care-

fully. So Mr. Johnson staged

a telephone blitz that finally

changed his mind.

The President called a num-

ber of businessmen close to

Nixon, also talked with Nixon's

Secretary of the Treasury,

David Kennedy, and Nixon's

Budget Director Robert May.

He persuaded each that the

surtax is essential to meet

Federal expenses and to pre-

vent inflation. He then asked

them to use their influence on

Nixon.

Felt

W.C. Sullivan

Rosen

Sullivan

Tavel

Trotter

Tele. Room

Holmes

Gandy

W.C. Sullivan

W.C. Sullivan

The Washington Post

Times Herald

The Washington Daily News

The Evening Star (Washington)

The Sunday Star (Washington)

Daily News (New York)

Sunday News (New York)

New York Post

The New York Times

The Sun (Baltimore)

The Daily World

The New Leader

The Wall Street Journal

The National Observer

People's World

Examiner (Washington)

JAN 18 1969

Date

W.C. Sullivan

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Nixon Farm Aides

Cliff Hardin, Nixon's Secretary of Agriculture, has excellent qualifications for the job but he has selected two interest figures to help him set farm policies.

His Under Secretary will be Georgia's veteran Agriculture Commissioner, Phil Campbell, who has been a leading opponent of tough Federal meat inspection. Now he is supposed to enforce the laws he has bitterly opposed.

The new Assistant Secretary in charge of farm subsidies, Clarence Palmby, has been a leader in the Farm Bureau, which has been clamoring to do away with farm subsidies.

Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson will report on more Nixon Cabinet problems over Radio WTOP Saturday at 9:40 a.m. and 6:40 p.m.

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UPI-79

ADD HICKEL, WASHINGTON (UPI-59)

Walter J. O

IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS BY SEN. GEORGE MCGOVERN, D-S.D., HICKEL CONCEDED THAT AS SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR HE MAY HAVE TO PASS ON ALASKA'S CLAIM OF ABOUT 3 MILLION ACRES OF LAND NEAR A RICH OIL DISCOVERY.

HICKEL MADE THE CLAIM LAST MONTH IN HIS CAPACITY AS GOVERNOR.

HICKEL SAID THE ATLANTIC-RICHFIELD OIL CO. DISCOVERY ON THE ARCTIC OCEAN COULD PRODUCE BETWEEN 5 AND 10 BILLION BARRELS OF CRUDE, WORTH AROUND \$15 BILLION.

"THERE WILL BE OTHER (UNDERGROUND OIL) STRUCTURES JUST LIKE THAT," HE SAID.

THE STATE'S CLAIM WAS MADE UNDER THE TERMS OF THE ALASKA STATEHOOD ACT WHICH PERMITTED THE STATE TO SELECT MORE THAN 100 MILLION ACRES OF FEDERALLY-OWNED LAND. HOWEVER, SELECTIONS IN THE ARCTIC AREA CAN BE MADE ONLY WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT OR HIS AGENT, PROBABLY THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

"WILL YOU NOT HAVE TO ACT ON THE REQUEST OF THE STATE OF ALASKA FOR TITLE TO THAT ACREAGE?" MCGOVERN ASKED.

"MAYBE SO, I DON'T KNOW," HICKEL REPLIED.

CHAIRMAN HENRY M. JACKSON, D-WASH., ASKED IF HICKEL WOULD MAINTAIN UDALL'S FREEZE ON SELECTION OF FEDERAL LAND IN ALASKA UNTIL NATIVE CLAIMS ARE SETTLED.

"THESE LANDS ARE ALL OPEN, THEREFORE THE CONGRESS IS FREE TO WORK ITS WILL," JACKSON SAID.

"I WOULD HOPE YOU WOULDN'T MAKE IT AN UNEQUIVACABLE YES OR NO," HICKEL REPLIED. "THERE ARE AREAS WHERE YOU REALLY CAN'T STOP THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE."

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59 FEB 17 1969

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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PI-59

(HICKEL)

WASHINGTON--GOV. WALTER J. HICKEL OF ALASKA SAID TODAY THE
ENTAGON OVER-RULED HIM AND ORDERED AN AIR NATIONAL GUARD PLANE TO
ERRY SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT TO A SNOW-BOUND COMMERCIAL FISHING
OPERATION ON AN INLAND LAKE.

THE PLANE CRASHED THROUGH THE ICE.
HICKEL IS PRESIDENT-ELECT NIXON'S CHOICE FOR SECRETARY OF
INTERIOR AND IS UNDERGOING EXTENSIVE QUESTIONING ON HIS FITNESS TO
SERVE IN THAT POST BY THE SENATE INTERIOR COMMITTEE.
QUESTIONS WERE RAISED IN THE COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY ABOUT USE
OF THE PLANE. HICKEL PROMISED TO GIVE AN EXPLANATION TODAY, AND
DID SO.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE ALASKA EAGLE RIVER COLD STORAGE
CO. ASKED HIM IN JANUARY, 1967 TO PERMIT THE ANG PLANE TO FLY BUILDING
EQUIPMENT, GENERATORS, FUEL AND OTHER SUPPLIES TO THE LAKE. HICKEL
TURNED DOWN THE REQUEST.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE RECORD IN THE CASE SHOWED AN APPEAL WAS
MADE TO THEN SEN. ERNEST F. GREUNING'S OFFICE IN WASHINGTON, WHICH WAS
FORWARDED TO AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS. IN FEBRUARY, HICKEL CONTINUED, THE
AIR FORCE ORDERED THE ALASKAN AIR COMMAND TO FLY THE CARGO MISSION ON A
REIMBURSABLE BASIS.

HICKEL'S EXPLANATION APPEARED TO SATISFY THE COMMITTEE BUT
CHAIRMAN HENRY JACKSON, D-WASH., ASKED FOR FOLLOW-THROUGH INFORMATION
ON WHETHER THE AIR FORCE ACTUALLY WAS REIMBURSED.

THE GOVERNOR RETRACTED A STATEMENT MADE WEDNESDAY, HOWEVER RECORDED
THAT HE DID NOT CITE AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY TO BLOCK A JAPANESE
TRADING COMPANY FROM BUYING UNPROCESSED FISH FROM A CO-OPERATIVE OF
NATIVE FISHERMEN. HICKEL MADE THE RETRACTION AFTER SEN. GEORGE MCGOVERN,
D-S.D., CITED NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF A LETTER HICKEL WROTE TO THE
JAPANESE.

"I WAS IN ERROR BECAUSE I DID NOT RECOLLECT THE LETTER. IT
WAS A HUMAN ERROR, JUST A LACK OF REMEMBERING," HICKEL SAID.

MCGOVERN CONTENDED HICKEL HAD NO RIGHT TO INTERFERE WITH A
PRIVATE CONTRACT NOR TO CITE INTERNATIONAL TREATIES IN HIS
OBJECTIONS.

THE GOVERNOR RESPONDED THAT HIS ACTION BENEFITED THE ALASKA FISHING
INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE, AND HE JUSTIFIED IT UNDER A STATE POLICY
THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME PRIMARY PROCESSING OF ALASKA PRODUCTS
BEFORE THEY ARE SOLD IN FOREIGN COMMERCE.

THE EXPLANATION DID NOT SATISFY MCGOVERN. HE SAID THE
FISHERMEN INVOLVED WERE "AT THE POVERTY LEVEL--EARNING BETWEEN \$500
AND \$800 A YEAR."

59 FEB 21 1969

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

1-16-69

"YOU USED THE POWER OF YOUR OFFICE TO DAMAGE ONE GROUP OF PRODUCERS TO THE ADVANTAGE OF A GROUP OF PROCESSORS," MCGOVERN SAID. THE SENATOR REPEATED THAT THE JAPANESE COMPANY HAD OFFERED HIGHER PRICES FOR THE UNPROCESSED FISH THAN THE AMERICAN PROCESSING COMPANIES.

IN RESPONSE TO EARLIER QUESTIONS FROM SENS. JOHN SHERMAN COOPER, R-KY., AND FRANK E. MOSS, D-UTAH, HICKEL SAID:

--HE WOULD GUARD NATIONAL PARKS, WILD LIFE REFUGES AND WILDERNESS AREAS AGAINST INCURSIONS BY THE HIGHWAY BUILDERS.

--HE WOULD CONSULT WITH THE INTERIOR COMMITTEES OF THE CONGRESS BEFORE LIFTING A LAND FREEZE DECREED BY SECRETARY UDALL, TO PROTECT THE CLAIMS OF ESKIMOS, INDIANS AND ALEUT NATIVES.

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UPI-14

(HICKEL)

WASHINGTON--INTERIOR SECRETARY-DESIGNATE WALTER HICKEL OF ALASKA GOES BACK BEFORE THE SENATE INTERIOR COMMITTEE TODAY, REQUESTED TO SUPPLY INFORMATION ABOUT HOW AN AIR NATIONAL GUARD PLANE UNDER HIS COMMAND WAS USED TO FERRY SUPPLIES TO A COMMERCIAL FISHING ENTERPRISE. HICKEL DENIED ORDERING SUCH USE OF THE PLANE YESTERDAY, OPENING DAY OF THE LONGEST CONFIRMATION OF ANY OF PRESIDENT-ELECT NIXON'S CABINET APPOINTEES.

SEN. FRANK CHURCH, D-IDAHO, ASKED HICKEL ABOUT CHARGES IN A LETTER HE RECEIVED FROM TWO ANCHORAGE MEN, ALLEGING HICKEL PROMOTED A COMMERCIAL FISHING ENTERPRISE OF SPORT FISH, AND THAT THE PLANE FELL THROUGH THE ICE WHILE MAKE A LAKE LANDING, AND THE ENTERPRISE EVENTUALLY FAILED.

HICKEL SAID HE WOULD SUPPLY INFORMATION LATER ABOUT HOW THE PLANE HAPPENED TO BE USED.

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Hickel's Acts as Governor Questioned

By Drew Pearson

and Jack Anderson

His nicknames have coined for Walter J. Hickel would be Secretary of the Interior. Because of his ability in handing out contracts to oil companies in one nickname is "Yourself Hickel." But those who have made an opinion of the Hickel think that equally appropriate is "I Am the Law" or "Leap Before You Hickel." The latter is derived from the purchase of a Swedish ferry boat for use in Alaska waters when it was obvious such use would be a violation of the Jones Act prohibiting foreign-built vessels from Alaska coastal trade. See "I Am the Law" nickname is derived from the Governor's habit of taking the law into his own hands when it comes that he should do exactly the opposite. In such a case was his attempt to prevent the Eskimo from being cooperative at Bethel in selling its salmon to a Japanese freezer ship. Despite the fact that the law specifically gave the Eskimos the right to sell their catch to whomever they wanted, and the Japanese ship had been cleared by the State Department for Alaskan trade, Hickel, however, took the law into his own hands and

sent ten State employees including a state trooper to try to board the ship, scare it away and break up the deal.

More recently, "I Am the Law" Hickel has been taking the law into his own hands in his decision to remain as Governor of Alaska even after his official appointment as Secretary of the Interior on Jan. 20.

"Two-Job Hickel"

Apparently Hickel fears he may not be confirmed, or that confirmation may be delayed, so he wants to hang on to his job as Governor of Alaska.

This, however, is clearly against the Alaskan Constitution, which states: "The Governor shall not hold any other office."

Hickel also ignored the law when he appointed Harold Strandberg, Commissioner of Public Works, despite the fact that Strandberg had been a member of the legislature which voted to increase the salary of the Commissioner of Public Works. For a legislator on a Congressman to take a job for which he has voted a salary increase is against the Constitution.

However, "I Am the Law" Hickel carefully waited until the legislature had adjourned so Strandberg's appointment could not be challenged. When Joe La Rocca broke the story in the Fairbanks News Miner, Hickel had his 28-year-old Attorney General, Kent Ed-

wards write an opinion white-washing the appointment. However, it's now being challenged by a lawyers' suit and remains illegal just the same.

Another case where Hickel put himself above the law was when he tried to remove Clem Tillion of Halibut Cove from the Northwest International Fisheries Commission's advisory board because he proposed increasing the severance tax on oil companies in Alaska. The oil companies had been paying only 2 per cent. The University of Alaska after a study recommended a severance tax of 10 per cent. Tillion, a Republican member of the Alaskan Legislature, proposed a 2 1/2 per cent increase.

Hickel, a great champion of the oil companies, was so irate at Tillion's fellow Republican that he wrote a letter to the Interior Department in Washington which he will head next week recommending that Tillion be fired from the Fisheries advisory board. Tillion is a commercial king crab and salmon fisherman, eminently qualified to sit on the Fisheries board. So, the Interior Department retised.

Credibility Gap

To make matters worse, Hickel's office, when queried by the Fairbanks News Miner, flatly denied that he had written the letter. Later Sen. Bob Blodgett produced a copy of the letter. The Governor, however, never retracted his denial.

In his new job as Secretary of the Interior, "I Am the Law" Hickel will be able to fire Clem Tillion, as he will also be able to ladle out oil leases with no questions asked.

Gov. Hickel also ignored a highway construction bond issue law voted by the people of Alaska in 1960 to build a highway from Fairbanks to Nome with \$1 million of State funds plus \$19 million of fed-

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- Gandy ✓

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- The Washington Post Times Herald **C-27**
- The Washington Daily News
 - The Evening Star (Washington)
 - The Sunday Star (Washington)
 - Daily News (New York)
 - Sunday News (New York)
 - New York Post
 - The New York Times
 - The Sun (Baltimore)
 - The Daily World
 - The New Leader
 - The Wall Street Journal
 - The National Observer
 - People's World
 - Examiner (Washington)

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eral funds. Instead, he is now building a winter trail in the North Slope to help the oil companies.

This is in direct violation of the law which states: "It is the intent of the State to participate with mineral developers (in this case the oil companies) on a 50-50 matching basis."

Furthermore, says Sen. Bob Blodgett (D-Teller), "State law provides that construction expenditures exceeding \$20,000 shall be on a competitive bid contract basis.

"Gov. Hickel took the \$1 million general obligation bond issue dedicated to the ferry and the road bond program," said Sen. Blodgett. He did this, incidentally, without an O.K. from the Legislature, but after a few individual phone calls to legislators.

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FI-51

(HICKEL)

WASHINGTON--ALASKA GOV. WALTER J. HICKEL TOLD THE SENATE INTERIOR COMMITTEE TODAY HE WOULD ADMINISTER THE COUNTRY'S NATURAL RESOURCES ON A NATIONAL BASIS AND THAT HE HAD NO FINANCIAL INTERESTS THAT WOULD PRESENT A CONFLICT TO HIS DOING SO.

HICKEL IS PRESIDENT-ELECT NIXON'S CHOICE FOR SECRETARY OF INTERIOR. HE HAS BEEN UNDER FIRE FROM CONSERVATIONISTS FOR SAYING HE SAW LITTLE SENSE IN "A POLICY OF CONSERVATION JUST FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES." IT ALSO HAS BEEN ALLEGED HE HAD CLOSE TIES WITH THE OIL INDUSTRY THAT MIGHT WORK AGAINST THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

"I'M NOT IN THE OIL BUSINESS," HICKEL ANSWERED FIRMLY WHEN SEN. HENRY JACKSON, D-WASH., CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT THE ALLEGATION.

HICKEL DID CONCEDE THAT AT ONE TIME HE WAS IN A COMPANY THAT HAD A GAS DISTRIBUTION FRANCHISE FOR ANCHORAGE. THE COMPANY LATER MERGED WITH A PIPELINE COMPANY. BUT HE SAID HE HAD DISPOSED OF ALL INTEREST IN THE COMPANY. HE ADDED "I WILL DISPOSE OF ANYTHING ELSE YOU THINK I SHOULD."

UNDER FURTHER QUESTIONING FROM JACKSON, HICKEL, 49, SAID HE HAD APPOINTED TWO MEN WITH OIL BACKGROUNDS TO ALASKA GOVERNMENT POSTS. BUT HE SAID ONE WAS TO WHAT WAS ESSENTIALLY AN ACCOUNTANT'S JOB. AS TO THE OTHER, HEAD OF THE ALASKA COMMISSION ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HE SAID THE APPOINTEE, TOM KELLY, HAD DONE A "SUPERB" JOB AND THAT HE STOOD BEHIND HIS EVERY ACT.

THE COMMITTEE PICKED ONE OF THE LARGEST HEARING ROOMS ON CAPITOL HILL FOR HICKEL'S APPEARANCE, AND IT WAS JAMMED TO CAPACITY WITH LONG LINES WAITING IN THE CORRIDORS TO GET IN.

AS THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL OF NIXON'S APPOINTMENTS SO FAR, HICKEL ALSO DREW AN OVERFLOW CROWD OF REPORTERS AND TELEVISION CREWS.

IN A PREPARED STATEMENT READ TO THE COMMITTEE BEFORE JACKSON BEGAN HIS QUESTIONING, HICKEL SAID HE WOULD "DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE VASTLY DIFFERENT RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GOVERNOR OF ALASKA AND THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR."

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

"AS SECRETARY OF INTERIOR, I WILL ASSUME MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE WISE USE, MANAGEMENT, DEVELOPMENT, AND CONSERVATION OF OUR ENTIRE NATION'S NATURAL RESOURCES," HICKEL SAID.

BUT HE DID NOT ENTIRELY BACK OFF FROM HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENT ABOUT CONSERVATION. HE SAID THERE SHOULD BE EMPHASIS ON STUDIES OF POPULATION PATTERNS AND RECREATION NEEDS IN PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE.

"I DON'T BELIEVE WE DO THE CONCEPT OF WILDERNESS AND RECREATION LAND PRESERVATION ANY JUSTICE IF WE DON'T PLAN NOW FOR THE IMPACT THAT MAN, IN DRAMATICALLY INCREASING NUMBERS, WILL HAVE ON WILDERNESS AREAS AND OPEN SPACE. LIKEWISE, WE DON'T DO THE CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTRY JUSTICE IF WE MANAGE PARKS AND WILDERNESS ON AN ABSTRACT BASIS AND FAIL TO RECOGNIZE WHAT GREAT BENEFITS THESE AREAS CAN GIVE TO INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE IN OUR SOCIETY," HE SAID.

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WASHINGTON--REP. WILLIAM F. RYAN, D-N.Y., DISCLOSED TODAY HE HAS ASKED HIS STATE'S TWO REPUBLICAN SENATORS, JACOB JAVITS AND CHARLES GOODELL, TO OPPOSE CONFIRMATION OF WALTER J. HICKEL AS INTERIOR SECRETARY.

RYAN WROTE THE LAWMAKERS THAT HE DID NOT THINK THE ALASKA GOVERNOR "SHOULD BE ENTRUSTED WITH THE STEWARDSHIP OF THE NATION'S NATURAL RESOURCES" IN VIEW OF HICKEL'S OPPOSITION TO "CONSERVATION FOR CONSERVATION'S SAKE" AND HIS POSITION ON WATER STANDARDS.

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UPI-54

ADD F. HICKEL, WASHINGTON (UPI-51)

TURNING TO OIL, HICKEL ADMITTED THAT AS GOVERNOR OF ALASKA HE VIEWED THE OIL IMPORT PROGRAM AS IT AFFECTED HIS STATE. HE ALSO IS A PARTY TO A SUIT TO PREVENT MORE IMPORTS INTO A FREE TRADE ZONE AT MACHIASPORT, MAINE, TO GIVE THE HEAVILY POPULATED ATLANTIC COAST AREA MORE FUEL OIL. SUCH AN AREA WOULD OFFER COMPETITION TO ALASKA'S DEVELOPING OIL INDUSTRY.

SEEKING TO REASSURE THE COMMITTEE, HICKEL SAID:

"AS SECRETARY, I WILL STUDY AND CONSIDER THIS AND ALL OTHER PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH THE OIL IMPORT PROGRAM FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE NATIONAL INTEREST."

HICKEL ALSO SAID THAT THE "SPECULATION COULD BE PRETTY CLOSE" THAT HE HAS PICKED A NOTED CONSERVATIONIST, RUSSELL TRAIN, AS HIS UNDERSECRETARY. BUT HE SAID HE HAD NOT MADE ANY DECISIONS YET ON ANY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OR AGENCY HEADS.

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Interior

Walter J. Hickel

By Janet Archibald

Special to The Washington Post

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Dec. 11—Alaska's Gov. Walter J. Hickel is not a man to wait around patiently for something to happen.

One of his first acts when he became Governor in January, 1967, was to call for the extension of the Alaska Railroad into the remote reaches of the Arctic to tap the potential mineral wealth of that bleak land.

When the railroad project didn't get off the ground, Hickel started building a winter road into the north that could be used by trucks and cat trains.

By proving the feasibility of a surface route with the ice road, Hickel planned to pressure the Federal authorities for extension of the railroad.

"Things don't happen. Men make them happen," the 48-year-old Governor maintains. He will have ample opportunity to test his beliefs as Secretary of the Interior.

Hickel's tendencies to tackle head-on any obstacles to the development of Alaska often have pitted him against Federal law and Federal policy.

Although the Federal Jones Act requires that all shipping between American ports be done in American-built ships, Hickel last summer bought the State a \$7 million Swedish ferry liner for use in southeastern Alaskan waters. Operating just within the law, the Governor declared war on the

Jones Act and is in the midst of a battle to have it repealed.

Hickel was born Aug. 18, 1919, in Claflin, Kans., where his parents were tenant farmers. He came to Alaska in 1940. As legend has it, he arrived in the port of Seward with 37 cents in his pocket.

He worked as a dish washer, with the Alaska Railroad, as a bartender, carpenter and civilian inspector for the U.S. Air Force.

Since 1946, Hickel has been a builder and developer. He reputedly is a millionaire.

In 1966, he defeated Gov. William A. Egan to become Alaska's first Republican Governor.

A life-long Republican, Hickel has served two terms as Republican National Committeeman. He was a leader in the fight for statehood.

The intensity of Hickel's commitment once he sets his course was demonstrated by his energetic campaign in behalf of Richard M. Nixon for President.

An early supporter of New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller, Hickel later campaigned vigorously for Nixon.

"I'm not the type of person who can only be against something," Hickel said then. "I have to be for something."

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Hickel Faces Fish Co-op Inquiry

Senators Will Study
Hickel's Action
in Eskimo Case

By E.W. KENNEDY

ANCHORAGE, Dec. 29—In-
terested Alaskans now expect
that Gov. Walter J. Hickel, who is Secretary of
the Interior-designate, will
probably be questioned more
intensely during Senate con-
firmation hearings than any
other of President-elect Richard
M. Nixon's Cabinet choices.

Considerable regret is voiced
here about this, even by Dem-
ocrats and newspapers that
opposed Mr. Hickel for Alas-
kans very much want an Alas-
kan as Secretary of Interior.
And generally Mr. Hickel, an
aggressive confident, can do
man, is regarded as an im-
provement on his Democratic
predecessor, William A. Egan.

On the other hand, it is rec-
ognized that Mr. Hickel has
made himself a potential tar-
get for some tough questioning
by the Senate Interior Commit-
tee. This is because of his close
associations with oil interests
and his appointments of men
connected with the oil industry
because of some off-the-cuff
remarks on conservation and
pollution and finally because of
conflicting statements on the
big issue of Eskimo and Indi-
an claims that have left Eskimo
and Indian leaders wondering
if he really is, as he professes
to be, their friend.



Gov. Walter J. Hickel

Governor Prevented
Sale of Salmon to
a Japanese Ship

Attitude of Secretary

The Interior Department is
the guardian by law of the in-
terests of these peoples, but
how well this trust is per-
formed depends largely on the
interest and attitude of the
Secretary himself.

On this score, the Senate
committee is likely to question
Mr. Hickel at length on what
is known here as "the case of
the Kuskokwim co-op." This
involved the Governor's suc-
cessful effort last June to pre-
vent a group of 150 Eskimos
at Bethel on the Kuskokwim
River from selling their salmon
to a Japanese buyer at higher
prices than domestic buyers
would pay.

The Kuskokwim affair,
which stirred up a great con-
troversy here, began in 1967
when Bruce Crow, an Eskimo
leader, and six colleagues or-
ganized a buying and market-
ing cooperative.

Like most native villages,
those on the Kuskokwim are
rural slums. The Eskimos were
almost outside the cash
economy with an average in-
come of perhaps less than \$500
a year, of which about \$200
came from salmon fishing.

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ices, a group of lawyers hired by the Office of Economic Opportunity to provide legal aid to the poor.

A buyer was found by Mitsubishi International, a Japanese company. Mitsubishi contracted with another Japanese concern to send a freezer ship, Aburatsubo, March 10 to the Kuskokwim River at the beginning of June to pick up dressed fish from the Kuskokwim run of kings.

The agreement called for 2 cents a pound for kings and 1 cent a pound for silvers, considerably more than the prices later paid nonco-op buyers by domestic buyers. However, Mitsubishi agreed to pay 40 cents a pound for salmon eggs, which the domestic buyers had not taken.

Asked for Support

Mr. Crow, the co-op president, wrote Governor Hickey asking his support for the project and Mitsubishi informed the Governor of the projected arrival of the ship at Bethel.

Yet, suddenly on May 1, as the ship was heading for the river, the newspapers reported that the Governor had sent letters to Mr. Crow and Mitsubishi, saying he would not approve the project and intimating he would not permit it to be carried out.

In the letter Mr. Hickey notified his action on these grounds:

"There were enough American processors prepared to buy the catch."

"The International North Pacific Fisheries Treaty (among the United States, Canada, and Japan) prohibited such purchase and processing by the Japanese."

"If the Japanese ship should come into Alaskan waters, it had to be by invitation of the governor."

In the letter to Mitsubishi, the Governor said the treaty explicitly requires Japan to abstain from loading, possessing or transporting salmon from the waters which are specified in the treaty.

In the letter to Mr. Crow, he said he would not allow the entrance of a Japanese freezing vessel into the Kuskokwim River.

Eskimo leaders were astounded. Mike Chase, chief of the village of Nunapitchuk who is a co-op member, said: "My native gives them a chance to make money for themselves and their kids not to be on welfare."

Lawyers for the Legal Services and other legal experts were also amazed at the Governor's reasoning.

No Canneries Were There

Commercial fishing on the Kuskokwim had never amounted to much. The big Seattle packers had no canneries there. There was not even a cold storage plant. Much of the catch, either fresh or smoked, was eaten locally.

With a loan from the Federal Department of Agriculture, the co-op built a small cold storage plant. It paid the fishermen members roughly the same prices as the domestic buyers. But where the commercial companies bought only grade 1 king salmon, often culling out one-third of the catch, the co-op also bought grade 2.

Furthermore, the co-op bought the silver salmon that run in August after the kings have finished; the commercial buyers had rarely stayed around Bethel to buy silvers.

The difference in the co-op's buying practices in 1967 increased earnings for most members from \$200 to \$1,400. For some members their annual income increased from \$500 to \$2,000 and more.

Then Plant Burned

The next winter the cold storage plant burned.

There was not time to rebuild for the 1968 season. To keep their venture going and get money for a new storage plant, the co-op needed a buyer that would contract for the whole catch. The Alaska State Community Action Program, part of the Federal anti-poverty campaign, came to their aid. So did the Alaska Legal Serv-

First, they noted that G nor had the rig interpreted the federal treaty to the State and the courts. And the treaty gave the fish from do produce that the ship did not n but sh had to be in adv by the A consul service in Jap subishi sured the illi had been cleared. By te 3, with th of the oh a few d the sh was living three-i nity while tain to see the Go ndr would to pr tcher on

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roadstead. Then over the next three days these developments occurred:

9A Federal judge denied the co-op's request for a restraining order against the Governor, saying there was no evidence he intended to interfere with the ship.

9 Governor Hickel wrote the State Department demanding verification of the Mitsubishi statement that the ship had been cleared. "If this report is true," he said, "it would seem to have been a matter of simple courtesy for the Federal Government to have advised the Governor of the state involved." (Actually it was not part of the State Department's duty to provide such notice, and the notice by Mitsubishi was a courtesy).

9 In a telegram to the Governor, Senator Ernest Gruening said: "I hope you will give the fishermen the benefit of the doubt. What possible harm can be done by doing so?"

Mr. Hickel wired back: "What possible harm? For one thing, harm to our processors who employ thousands of Alaskans through substantial capital investment."

9 On June 6 the State Department officer in charge of fishery treaties said: "If this is a transaction in normal trade, if they are buying the fish from American fishermen, we see no violation of the treaty."

The next day the Governor sent to Bethel a 10-man group headed by Charles H. Meacham, the State Director of International Fisheries, and including policemen and representatives of several state departments.

Mr. Meacham said: "We are to do our fact finding, and if we find anything to do something about, we'll do it. But first we've got to find something to do anything about. If we are going to do anything."

On June 8 the first fish were brought in, but the ship was still at the river mouth and the fish were flown to Anchorage. The ship's captain was evidently not taking any chances with the Governor's representatives still there.

Met Mitsubishi Agents

On June 11 the Governor met for several hours with three Mitsubishi representatives. Later an assistant, Walter Kubley, told reporters:

The Governor did not presume to tell the Mitsubishi people how to do their business. There was no agreement as such, but it was understood that the Mitsubishi people would go to Anchorage and Bethel and make arrangements for living up to their contract to buy the co-op's fish.

The agreement, as the Governor understood it, evidently was that Mitsubishi would pay for the fish but fly them to Anchorage for dressing and freezing.

It did not work out that way. Mitsubishi took a few fish. Then, on June 13, Mr. Crow announced that Mitsubishi had sent him a note breaking the contract.

To Other Buyers

Stan Patty, an aide to the Governor, said arrangements would be made to have the fishermen sell their fish to other buyers than the co-operative.

"This," he said, "is to establish the policy that foreign fishing operations such as this freezer may come into Alaska only on the invitation of the Governor."

On June 14 the co-op paid to have several tons airlifted to Anchorage. But because of the delay and lack of ice almost all of it—8,875 pounds—spoiled.

There was a last ironic note. On June 27, after the American freezer ship Teddy sailed away with a full load of the co-op's salmon, the Governor invited the Akitsu Maru to put into Bethel and buy the rest of the salmon production. The Japanese agreed. They paid the co-op more than double the price per pound paid by the Teddy operators.

Leading Conservationist

Is Reported Selected as Hickel Aide

E. Train, one of the leading conservationists, has been selected to be secretary of Interior in Nixon Administration, Hill sources said yes.

a's Gov. Walter J. who faces hard questions on his conservation when hearings on his nomination as Secretary of Interior begin in the Senate today, reportedly is delaying the Train appointment until after the 8 on Hickel's own terms.

However, the choice of is expected to be announced today by the Nixon Administration.

Train, 48, has impeccable credentials as a conservationist. Since 1965, he has been head of the Conservation Foundation, a national organization headquartered here. He is also director or trustee of several international wildlife societies.

A Republican, he was a tax attorney for Congressional committees and the Treasury from 1949 to 1957, then was named by President Eisenhower to the U.S. Tax Court. He resigned from the court in 1965 to head the Conservation Foundation.

Train also headed the task force on natural resource policies named by President-elect Nixon to study conservation matters in preparation for the new Administration.

The selection of Train could help reduce some conservationist opposition to Hickel. Hickel has been under fire from many Senate Democrats since a Dec. 18 press conference in which, they charged, he revealed himself as not sufficiently concerned with water pollution problems and parkland preservation.

The dispute over Hickel continued yesterday with an announcement by the influential Sierra Club that its executive committee had voted over the weekend to "strongly oppose confirmation" of Hickel because he has "no understanding of conservation and the need to protect and restore the American environment."

Democrats on the Senate Interior Committee were said to have split up responsibilities for questioning Hickel at the Wednesday hearing. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.) will concentrate on questions about national parklands and wilderness areas. George S. McGovern (D-S.D.) will handle Indians and Alaska native claims. Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.) will handle oil and wildlife policy. Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) will lead the questioning on water pollution, and Frank E. Moss (D-Utah) will handle public land policy.

Hickel's office yesterday released a list of his actions as Alaska Governor which it said showed him to be a friend of conservation. They included:

• Action to remove a \$3 bounty on hair seals in the southern part of the state, and to let the state game board remove the bounty on wolves in certain areas, helping preserve these species.

• A tough state water pollution law with fines up to \$25,000.

• State action to preserve king salmon runs in the Anchorage area, to protect sea otters and to reduce indiscriminate use of poisons endangering wildlife.

• Protection of the muskoxen through veto of a bill that would have allowed hunting of these animals.

• Development of wildlife park areas, recreational areas and preservation of anthropological relics like totem poles.

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The National Observer _____
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WALTER J. Hickel

UPI-46

(HICKEL)

LONDON--THE WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT OF THE TIMES SAID TODAY THAT TO MANY AMERICANS MAKING GOVERNOR WALLY HICKEL OF ALASKA SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR WOULD BE "LIKE PUTTING A CONDEMNED RAPIST IN CHARGE OF A GIRL'S SCHOOL."

THE DISPATCH SAID HICKEL HAS BEEN BROUGHT UP "IN THE TRADITION OF PUBLIC LANDS FOR THE TAKING AND THE RUTHLESS EXPLOITATION OF RESOURCES."

"SOME REPUBLICANS ARE BEGINNING TO THINK," IT SAID, "THAT HICKEL'S NOMINATION WAS A MISTAKE COMPARABLE TO THAT OF GOVERNOR SPIRO AGNEW AS VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE."

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BY FOR MS TUES JAN. 14

BY EMMER LAMMI

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- ALASKA GOV. WALTER J. HICKEL, ACCUSTOMED TO THE COOL WEATHER OF HIS ADOPTED STATE, MAY LEARN THIS WEEK WHETHER HE CAN STAND THE HEAT OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL. TURNING ON THE HEAT WILL BE THOSE DEMOCRATIC SENATORS WHO HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER PRESIDENT-ELECT NIXON'S CHOICE OF THE 49-YEAR-OLD ALASKAN AS HIS SECRETARY OF INTERIOR.

HICKEL GOES TO CAPITOL HILL WEDNESDAY FOR CONFIRMATION HEARINGS. HE IS THE ONLY ONE OF NIXON'S CABINET CHOICES LIKELY TO ENCOUNTER ROUGH SLEDDING.

MOST OF THE GOVERNOR'S TROUBLES BEGAN WITH HIS OFF-THE-CUFF ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS AT A NEWS CONFERENCE DURING WHICH HE OBJECTED TO "A POLICY OF CONSERVATION JUST FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES." ASKED ABOUT GOVERNMENT WATER POLLUTION STANDARDS, HE SAID: "IF YOU SET STANDARDS SO HIGH, YOU MIGHT REALLY HINDER INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT."

HICKEL'S CRITICISM OF FEDERAL ACTIONS WHICH "LOCK UP" RESOURCES AND HINTS THAT HE MIGHT OPEN UP AN ALASKAN WILDLIFE REFUGE TO OIL LEASING FURTHER ALSO SPARKED CONSERVATIONISTS' FEARS THAT HE MIGHT FAVOR OIL, TIMBER AND MINING INTERESTS.

HUNDREDS OF LETTERS POURED IN TO SENATE OFFICES QUESTIONING THE GOVERNOR'S QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE CABINET POST AND DEMOCRATIC SENATORS BEGAN CALLING FOR FULL HEARINGS TO DIG MORE DEEPLY INTO HIS VIEWS ON NATURAL RESOURCES.

AMONG THOSE EXPRESSING RESERVATIONS OVER HICKEL'S FITNESS FOR THE CABINET POST WERE SENS. WILLIAM PROXMIRE, D-WIS., LEE METCALF, D-MONT., GAYLORD NELSON, D-WIS., GEORGE S. MCGOVERN, D-S.D., AND WILLIAM B. SPONG JR., D-VA.

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

PROXIMIRE'S STAFF BEGAN LOOKING INTO HICKEL'S RECORD AND SUPPLIED MATERIAL TO OTHER SENATORS AS IT POURED IN FROM NEWS AND OTHERS WHO OPPOSED THE NOMINATION. HICKEL ALSO HAD HIS DEFENDERS, THE CHIEF ONE BEING SEN. ALLOTT, R-COLO., THE RAGING GOP MEMBER OF THE SENATE ENERGY COMMITTEE, WHO PREDICTED HICKEL WOULD BE CONFIRMED. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HENRY M. JACKSON, D-WASH., REFRAINED FROM COMMENT IT ASIDE TWO DAYS FOR THE HEARINGS AND LET IT BE KNOWN HE LET THEM RUN LONGER IF NECESSARY. ONE OF THE MYSTERIES INVOLVING HICKEL--AND ONE TO WHICH THE HEARINGS WERE UNLIKELY TO PROVIDE AN ANSWER--WAS WHY HE WAS NAMED. NIXON BELIEVED TO HAVE FAVORED REP. ROGERS, C. B. MORTON, R-MD., BUT AN EASTERNER HE PROVED UNACCEPTABLE TO WESTERN REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS TO WHOM NIXON PROMISED A VETO OVER THE POST DURING RE-NOMINATION MANEUVERING AT THE GOP CONVENTION AT MIAMI BEACH. THE GOVERNORS APPARENTLY FLOORED APPOINTMENT OF TIM BABCOCK, REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR OF MONTANA WHO WAS DEFEATED IN HIS BID FOR RE-ELECTION. NIXON APPARENTLY DID NOT WANT BABCOCK AND CAME UP WITH HICKEL AS A COMPROMISE. DEMOCRATIC SENATORS WERE EXPECTED TO ASK HICKEL ABOUT ALLEGATIONS THAT HE WAS RECOMMENDED TO NIXON BY MAJOR OIL INTERESTS.

ACCORDING TO LEGEND, THE KANSAS-BORN HICKEL WENT TO ALASKA AT THE AGE OF 21 WITH 37 CENTS IN HIS POCKET AND BUILT HIS FORTUNE CHIEFLY THROUGH CONSTRUCTION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT. BUT HE WAS EXPECTED TO BE QUESTIONED CLOSELY ON HIS LINKS WITH THE OIL INDUSTRY.

PROXIMIRE, FOR EXAMPLE, PLANNED TO ASK HICKEL ABOUT HIS VETO OF A BILL PASSED BY THE REPUBLICAN-CONTROLLED STATE LEGISLATURE TO PROHIBIT CONSTRUCTION OF FIXED OFFSHORE INSTALLATIONS IN KEY FISHING GROUNDS IN ALASKA'S BRISTOL BAY. AN OBJECTIVE OF THE LEGISLATION WAS TO PROTECT SALMON FROM OIL POLLUTION.

OTHER AREAS CERTAIN TO BE EXPLORED INCLUDED HICKEL'S STINT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ANCHORAGE NATURAL GAS CO. AND ALLEGATIONS THAT THE COMPANY AT THAT TIME SOLD LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS TO JAPAN AT LOWER PRICES THAN IT WAS DELIVERED DIRECTLY TO ALASKAN CUSTOMERS.

THE COMMITTEE WAS EXPECTED TO ASK ABOUT REPORTS HICKEL MIGHT NAME TOM KELLY, ALASKA COMMISSIONER OF NATURAL RESOURCES, TO HEAD THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT--WHICH ADMINISTER OIL LEASE PROGRAMS ON PUBLIC LANDS.

CERTAIN TO COME UP WERE QUESTIONS ON HICKEL'S NEWS CONFERENCE STATEMENTS SUGGESTING HE MIGHT OPEN AN ARCTIC GAME REFUGE TO OIL EXPLORATION AND LEASING.

SPOKESMEN FOR ALASKA INDIANS TOLD SENATORS THEY FEARED HICKEL MIGHT LIFT A LAND FREEZE IMPOSED BY INTERIOR SECRETARY STEWART L. UDALL TO PREVENT THE STATE FROM TAKING LANDS THE INDIANS CLAIM BELONG TO THEM. THE STATE, UNDER THE ALASKA STATEHOOD ACT OF 1958, HAS THE RIGHT TO SELECT LANDS FROM THE PUBLIC DOMAIN BUT UDALL TEMPORARILY HALTED SUCH SELECTIONS TO GIVE CONGRESS TIME TO CONSIDER THE INDIAN CLAIMS.

SENATORS CONCERNED ABOUT WATER POLLUTION PLANNED TO GRILL HICKEL ON REPORTS THAT ONE OF HIS BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS POURED RAW SEWAGE INTO ALASKAN WATERS.

OTHER QUESTIONS WHICH HICKEL MIGHT FACE INVOLVED A TRUST INTO WHICH HE VOLUNTARILY PLACED HIS HOLDINGS WHEN HE BECAME ALASKA'S SECOND ELECTED GOVERNOR IN 1966.

HICKEL HIMSELF REMAINED PUBLICLY SILENT AS THE DAY OF HIS CONFIRMATION HEARING APPROACHED. FOR EXAMPLE, A LETTER FROM PROXIMIRE ASKING CLARIFICATION OF SOME OF HIS VIEWS REMAINED UNANSWERED.

ANOTHER MAN WHO REMAINED RELATIVELY SILENT AS HICKEL'S TROUBLES MOUNTED WAS UDALL, THE MAN WHOSE POLICIES APPEARED TO SOME TO BE THREATENED BY THE ALASKAN.

"THE GOVERNOR HAS ENOUGH TROUBLES WITHOUT MY MULTIPLYING THEM," UDALL SAID IN DECLINING TO ATTACK THE MAN NAMED TO SUCCEED HIM.

ADV FOR PM'S TUES JAN. 14

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Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson A-23

Conflict-of-Interest Examination Should Include a Hickel Contract

PRESIDENT-ELECT Nixon's counsel, John D. Ehrlichman, is making a painstaking, conscientious effort to detect conflicts of interest among new Nixon appointees before they take office.

We suggest that both Ehrlichman and the Senate Interior Committee, which shortly will examine the qualifications of Water

Hickel to be Secretary of the Interior, take a good look at the operations of Hickel's plumbing and heating company while Hickel was—and still is—Governor of Alaska.

They will find that the Hickel company was able to get a subcontract for the plumbing and heating for the Anchorage airport despite the fact that it was not originally the low bidder. The work involved about \$1,000,000.

The over-all work on the Anchorage airport was being bid by four general



Pearson

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contractors who had asked for bids on the heating and plumbing by subcontractors. The lowest bidder with three of the companies and reportedly with the fourth was C. R. Lewis, who operates an Alaskan plumbing and heating firm of long standing.

When Lewis was questioned on the telephone in Anchorage, he was hesitant about discussing the bids.

"I'm a Republican State Senator," he said, "and Hickel is the Republican

Governor. It's a bit sticky for me."

Pressed further, he explained:

"There were four general contractors bidding and with three of them my company was low. With the fourth they said we were not low, that the Governor's firm was low. This was last May or June."

"For weeks we couldn't get the figures out of them. We couldn't find out who was low bidder. With the other companies we had no trouble. We got the figures right away. But with the fourth we just ran up against a blank wall, and in the end the Governor's firm got the subcontract. We heard our bid was thrown out on a technicality."

The interesting point is why a firm belonging to the Governor of Alaska was bidding on a government contract at all.

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Jan. 15 Hearing Slated On Nomination of Hickel

The Senate Interior Committee will hold an open hearing Jan. 15 on the nomination of Walter J. Hickel for Secretary of Interior, Chairman Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) announced yesterday.

The Alaska Governor will not formally be nominated until after President-elect Nixon takes office Jan. 20. Jackson said there was great interest in the nomination because the Interior Department has jurisdiction over public lands, minerals and wide range of natural resources.

Hickel has drawn criticism from some conservationists because of his statement at a press conference here that he opposed locking up resources on the public lands and pre-

venting economic development where there was no special reason.

An Interior Committee aide said more letters on the Hickel nomination, most of them critical ones from conservationists, had been received than on any other nomination before the committee in the past eight years.

He said dozens of letters had arrived between 100 and 200 and most of them either opposed Hickel or asked the committee to take a very careful look at him. But the committee aide added that mail on nominees is usually critical and the people who support a man usually do not bother to write.

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59 FEB 17 1969

Alaskan Hickel No Pal of Eskimos

By Drew Pearson
and Jack Anderson

Several Senators, both Republicans and Democrats, are taking a close look at the man whom Robert O. Anderson, head of Atlantic-Richfield Oil, recommended to President-elect Nixon as Secretary of the Interior.

Gov. Walter Hickel is a close pal of the big oil companies, but he is no pal of the Eskimos and Indians. Yet as Secretary of the Interior, he will handle the affairs of all American Indians and indirectly influence the lives of the Eskimos.

In this connection, the most interesting incident in Hickel's career was his crackdown last summer on an Eskimo fishing cooperative at Kuskokwim, where he used state police and state officials to try to prevent an Eskimo co-op from selling its salmon catch to a Japanese freezer ship.

The full story of what happened is difficult to believe. It shows, however, that the Governor resorted to highhanded methods. His men tried to board the ship, until the Japanese captain refused to be intimidated. Then they buzzed the ship with a plane. Again the ship refused to be scared away.

Hickel then claimed that the ship was entering Alaskan waters without authority. The State Department, however,

ruled otherwise. It stated that the ship had been cleared by the American consul in Kobe, had been inspected by U.S. Customs, Health, Immigration and the Department of Agriculture, and was entitled to pick up Alaskan fish.

Hickel also publicly claimed the ship was violating the North Pacific Fishing Treaty. Again the State Department said no.

OEO Encouragement

The story of Hickel's shocking behavior dates back to 1967, when Alaskan Eskimos, who had been netting around \$500 a year from their salmon catch, organized a cooperative with the encouragement of Sargent Shriver's Office of Economic Opportunity. They were aided by the Alaska State Community Action Agency and the Alaska Legal Services, which works for OEO.

First, they built a small cold storage plant at Bethel, where their fish could be stored to be marketed at higher prices later instead of selling immediately at the whim of Seattle buyers. The latter have taken advantage of Eskimo fishermen by buying salmon at around 15 cents a pound with no extra price paid for roe. Toward the end of the fishing season; furthermore, the Seattle buyers move on to other areas, and the Eskimo fishermen are left with no market at all. They must dry their

catch and eat it themselves during the winter.

However, the cold storage plant at Bethel, built by the Kuskokwim Co-op, mysteriously burned down. So this year the Eskimos, with the help of Alaska Legal Services, signed a joint contract with Mitsubishi International and Kyokuyo Hogel Ltd. The contract provided for buying the entire salmon catch of the Kuskokwim Eskimos at a price of 33 cents a pound for dressed king salmon and 23 cents for dressed silver salmon. This was double the price previously paid by Seattle middlemen. In addition, salmon eggs were to be purchased for 40 cents a pound.

But when the Akitsu Maru arrived to pick up the salmon catch last June, Hickel reacted as if he were faced with another Pearl Harbor. Completely ignoring the fact that his own Anchorage Natural Gas Company sells liquid gas to Tokyo, he seemed to think it was against the law for Eskimo fishermen to sell fish to Japan.

Secret Conference

When the captain of the Akitsu Maru refused to be intimidated by Hickel's 10 man task force of state officials, the Governor called Mitsubishi officials into a secret conference in Juneau.

"We asked that representatives of the Eskimo co-op sit in on the conference," said William Jacobs of the Alaska

Legal Services. "But we were refused. It was a star chamber proceeding."

"After representatives of Mitsubishi and the Japanese co-op had sat with the Governor for three hours," said Jacobs, "they came out and handed us a note that they were not going to buy any more fish. We have sued the Japanese for breach of contract, but it will take a long time to iron this out in the courts. Meanwhile, the Eskimo fishermen, who thought they had a contract to sell all their season's catch, are now left with a lot of spoiled fish on their hands. They flew several plane loads to Anchorage, but 4000 pounds spoiled before they could get it frozen."

The Eskimos of Kuskokwim will now have to go back on Federal and state relief to last out the winter. Had they gone through with their plan to sell their total catch to the Japanese, they would have made about \$2000 a year per fisherman.

During the same week, Hickel was bulldozing the Eskimos, the House Appropriations Committee in Washington voted \$1,700,000 to aid Alaska native fishermen. Of this, \$633,000 was for "welfare assistance to Alaskan natives affected by a tragic drop in the catch of fish" last summer. As Secretary of the Interior, Hickel will be in charge of distributing these funds to the fishermen he intimidated last summer.

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The Wall Street Journal

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